

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 13-15, 17, 19-25, 27 and 28 are pending in the present application. Claims 10 and 18 have been canceled, and claims 1, 5, 8, 13, 17 and 22 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Figure 5 was objected to; claims 1 and 5 were objected to; claims 1 and 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Heyder; and claims 8, 10, 13-15, 17, 19-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Heyder in view of Wesson.

Claim Objections

Regarding the objection to claims 1 and 5, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the convex portion reinforcing member includes a recess for receiving the convex portion of the case. These features are illustrated at least by Figures 4 and 5 and the corresponding description in the specification. Claim 5 has also been amended to depend on claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Drawing Objection

Regarding the objection to the drawings, enclosed is a replacement copy of Figure 5 that uses the reference character 84 only once. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection

to the drawings be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claim 1 and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Heyder. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to clarify that the case has a convex portion with a recess for receiving a nut and a reinforcing member has a flat board shape and a convex portion with a recess for receiving the convex portion of the case for reinforcing stiffness of the case when the shaft is engaged therewith and the reinforcing member is mounted at an outer surface of the case.

These features are illustrated by Figures 4 and 5 and the correspondence description in the specification. For example, Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the case 14 having a convex portion 86 with a recess for receiving a nut and a reinforcing member 84 has a flat board shape and a convex portion 92 with a recess for receiving the convex portion 86 of the case 14 for reinforcing stiffness of the case 14 when the shaft 48 is engaged therewith and the reinforcing member 84 is mounted at an outer surface of the case 14.

On the contrary, as shown in Figure 2 of Hyder, which has been reproduced in the Office Action, the convex portion 32 is shaped with a flat surface for merely contacting the convex portion 31 of the case. Thus, Hyder merely discloses flat surfaces that are joined together via a bolt 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each of the claims

depending therefrom are allowable.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 8, 10, 13-15, 17, 19-25, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hyder in view of Wesson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 8 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claim 10, and to clarify that the stopping pin is integrally formed in the reinforcing member and is not detachable from the reinforcing member, is inserted in an insertion groove formed at the case, and is protruded to the nut installed portion, so that the stopping pin stops at a stopping protrusion. Independent claims 13, 17 and 22 includes similar features in a vary scope.

On the contrary, as shown in Figure 2 of Wesson, the stopping pin 16 is detachable from the bolt 11. Heyder also does not teach or suggest the claimed stopping pin being integrally formed in the reinforcing member.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 8, 17, and 22 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Application No.: 10/758,038
Amendment filed February 12, 2008
Reply to August 13, 2007 Office Action

Attorney Docket No. 0630-1938P
Art Unit 3677
Page 14 of 14

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

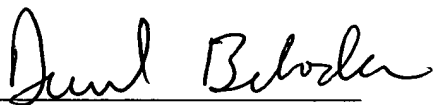
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Blodeau
Registration No. 43.325

By 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Registration No.: 39,538
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: One (1) Sheet of Replacement Drawings (Fig. 5)